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ABSTRACT

A brief review of the recent years of civil dissent and conflict in the U.S. and the underground press movement is presented as an introduction to this proposal that the university library of the State University of New York at Buffalo establish a system to acquire and house alternative materials. The author, assistant reference librarian, presents the objectives, rationale, and budget outlines for establishing and maintaining a special collection of alternative materials. (SJ)

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SUNY at BUFFALO

Alternative Research Center

A Proposal

Prepared by:
Roger C. Palmer

LI 004 207

1973

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AN OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN UNDERGROUND PUBLISHING, 1955-1972

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AN OVERVIEW OF AMERICAN UNDERGROUND PUBLISHING, 1955-1972

PHASE I, 1955-1964, The Beats...

In reviewing a recent bibliography of editorials, books, and periodical articles dealing with the conflict and dissent of the decade just past, Noel Peattie of Sipapu observed:

> The "decade of controversy" did not begin with 1 January 1960; it began with 1 December 1955, when Mrs. Rosa Parks refused to sit in the back of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama...[1]

The history of this most recent epoch of American underground publishing is usually traced to the mid-1950's when Norman Mailer helped launch The Village Voice in New York City. Mailer described his association with that paper: "They wanted it to be successful; I wanted it to be outrageous. They wanted a newspaper that could satisfy the conservative community - church news, meetings of political organizations, so forth. I believed we could grow only if we tried to reach an audience in which no newspaper had yet been interested. I had the feeling of an underground revolution on its way, and I do not know that I was wrong."[2]

Mailer was early in predicting an underground press revolution and the Voice adhered then, as now, to its two objectives - "to report the local cultural and political

happenings and to print points of view not represented in the major New York papers..."[3]

The Village Voice was part of a 1950's movement to personalize the communication process, a movement best represented by the "Beat Generation" of poets. Jack Kerouac: "Mainly, it is a new literary movement aimed at freer expression of highly personal impressions, and is, in that sense, modern individualistic romance for all it's worth."[4]

Much of the radicalism that seemed to burst upon the scene in the sixties had its roots in the Black sit-ins, the reaction against McCarthyism, and the opposition to the execution of the Rosenbergs of the fifties. But the heritage of underground publishing in the sixties can be clearly traced to the expressions disgust, disillusionment, and ennui with the American way of life found in the "Beat" magazines.

> Visions! omens! hallucinations! miracles!
> ecstasies! gone down/ the American river!/
> Dreams! adorations! illuminations! religions! the whole/ boatload of sensitive bullshit!/ Breakthroughs! over the river! flips
> and crucifixions! gone down/ the flood!
> Highs! Epiphanies! Despairs! Ten years'/
> animal screams and suicides! Minds! New
> loves! Mad/ generation! down on the rocks
> of Time!
>
> from "Howl"[5]

Shortly after Lawrence Ferlinghetti published Allen Ginsberg's "Howl" in 1956, the former was arrested for dis-

tributing allegedly obscene material. Although found not guilty, the threat of censorship by an obscenity charge was established as a weapon for the status quo. The obscenity charge had a second and equally dangerous effect; it distracted the attention of the intended audience from the message. And Ginsberg was not projecting ideas that would comfort, as the passage above suggests, he was sending religion down the American river, as well as drugs ("I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness/...looking for an angry fix..."), alienation ("expelled from academies for crazy & publishing/ obscene odes..."), loneliness ("wandered around and around at midnight in the railroad yard/ wondering where to go, and went, leaving no broken hearts..."), the failure of a complex society to cope with its members ("the concrete void of insulin metrasol/ electricity hydrotherapy psychotherapy occupational therapy/ pingpong & amnesia..."), and sex to replace love ("went out whoring through Colorado in myriad stolen/ night-cars...").[6]

The underground press during the formative years from 1955-1964 consisted of The Village Voice, 1955; I.F. Stone's Weekly, 1953 ("My idea was to make the Weekly radical in viewpoint but conservative in format... I tried in every issue to provide fact and opinion not available elsewhere in the press."[7]); The Realist started by Paul Krassner in 1958 ("I wanted to blow peoples' minds and it's really a mind blower if you

can't tell if something is real or not... Several years ago, I had a serious article by a student at Berkeley about the violent peace movement. But people thought it was satire, and dangerous satire at that. Then we had a cartoon that showed a soldier with a bayonet saying to a Vietnamese woman, 'Is there a Viet Cong in there?' It was a prediction of the Song My massacre. Then, too, it was true. She was hiding a Viet Cong in there!"[8]). In addition, various little magazines from Bohemian districts in San Francisco (Beatitude), Toronto (Combustion), and elsewhere combined to form the early underground press.

There were others who participated in the underground during this period but the "decade of controversy" did not break into the national consciousness until 1964 when the Los Angeles Free Press began publication.

PHASE II, 1964-1970, Fireworks!

The second part of the era under consideration attracted the most attention from the popular press. Articles in Time, Newsweek, Fortune, Playboy, and Esquire were published with growing frequency indicating the news value of the alternative press during the sixties. (N.B. Underground infers illicit and, while there were some legal problems, most of the difficult court cases involving censorship had been fought prior to 1964. Publishing in the sixties was

open; commercial printers were used, distribution was often through street vendors, and, perhaps due to their profusion, these publications were tolerated (with exceptions) by the Post Office, universities, city police, etc. The publications were not basically underground but attempted to provide access to issues and opinions not given in the traditional press -- an alternative press.)

The years from 1964-1970 were charged with outrage ("But the summer wasn't gentle - not in Vietnam; not in Newark or Detroit, not in Israel, Egypt, Bolivia, Nigeria, or Greece. By August, a new wind was blowing: a Digger went up on stage at the New Politics convention, held a tire iron in his fist, and declared the space within his reach a 'liberated zone.'"[9]). Frustration with war, racism, poverty, government, politics, education... was reflected in a growing number of alternative publications that appeared spontaneously, glowed temporarily, and sputtered out after the rage was spent.

The existence of so many of these papers was made possible by the introduction of new printing techniques. A century earlier the development of the rotary press had permitted the manufacture of large-scale, mass-produced, and inexpensive newspapers and books. Prior to the 1960's, the American printing industry was equipped with techniques and machinery that were economical only with mammoth press

runs; the small quantities needed by the alternative press would make the costs prohibitive. However, offset presses and cold-type composing made it possible (by the mid-1960's) to print a sixteen-page tabloid newspaper for $20.00 per 1000 copies plus $6.50 per page for negatives and plates. The average printing bill for many of the alternative newspapers with a circulation of 12,000 copies was $350 to $400 per issue.[10]

The variety of positions illumined by the flowering of the alternative press is relected by the subject headings used by Richard Akeroyd in his guide to the University of Connecticut's special collection of underground and alternative newspapers, from "Alternative Life Styles, American Indians, and Black Liberation" through "Draft Resistance and Peace Movement" to "Right Wing, White Power, and Women's Liberation."[11] The range of topics is broad and it is growing.

Midway through this second phase, both Playboy and Esquire, in their August and September 1967 issues respectively, published in-depth articles on the state-of-the-art in alternative publishing. Michael Lydon concluded his Esquire article, "The Word Gets Out," with a quotation from Allen Cohen (of the Oracle, an alternative newspaper):

> The activist papers are the new gods that defeat the old gods. But meanwhile the

> foundations of the new kingdom must be laid. That is what the mind papers do. Man has been separated from man by fear and the city. We, the Aquarian youth, shall begin the new tribal culture where peace and love will reign. We are the new Indians.[12]

Jacob Brackman's Playboy article, "The Underground Press," amplifies Cohen by illustrating what the term "alternative" has come to mean:

> To learn what is happening, to form a personal judgement of America, we must rely heavily upon the testimony of the press. We know the defense briefs by heart. In the face of overwhelming economic and sociopolitical impotence, the underground press seeks to prepare a case for the prosecution. Its witnesses are mostly a strident, frowzy lot, bitter for all their talk of love, unruly, perhaps even a bit mad. But they are, at last, demanding to take the stand. And they have quite another story to tell.[13]

PHASE III, 1971-Present, The Organizer's Handbook.

In the first phase, the "Beats" began identifying problems facing society. They managed to do this with detachment but with an intellectual vigor that had been nurtured by ample experience with life (Ginsberg had been out of Columbia for ten years by the time "Howl" was published). Their message was meant for their own Bohemian culture rather than for the alien society that surrounded those villages. America had gone through many years of rejecting

people and groups that did not seem to meet the status quo. Their poems, little magazines, and pamphlets were intended to reassure themselves that a small community of people did understand.

Phase II brought an explosion of alternative publications. It was a new voice for dissident elements that had not previously had cause for dissatisfaction. The publishers, editors, and writers were young and often inexperienced. The causes were too often flashy. Profanity was employed to compensate for the lack of reasoned analysis; "pornographic" pictures and artwork were sometimes used to replace a thousand words that the writing staff could not think of. It was a time of emotion and, by and large, the feelings were genuine. The alternative press of that period does give an authentic impression of those difficult years.

The third phase will probably become the most important historically. The maturation of the alternative movement has important tangible aspects:

> 1. What was once a large group of publications sporadically commenting on a variety of issues has fragmented into several strong, special-interest associations working toward specific aims. Sometimes working through communes (e.g. Vocations for Social Change, a California commune that keeps track of and reports on the activities of movement groups through its magazine, Work Force) and sometimes through collectives (e.g. the O.M., compilers of The Organizer's Manual, a book of "practical suggestions for small-group and grass-roots organizing"). Other communes and collectives are working toward implementing their solutions to problems in American life.

2. A bibliographic network has been established. It includes, among others, Alternative Press Index (serials), Alternatives in Print (a books-in-print listing), the Source catalogs (a listing of materials by subject for the use of groups who want to effect change in housing, prison reform, etc.), and a growing number of catalogs issued by universities with alternative collections (Alternatives, University of Connecticut; Look into the Underground, Northwestern).

The aging of the alternative movement has reaffirmed certain verities in the human existence. Neither the intellectual but directionless base provided by the "Beats" nor the emotional upheaval of the youth in the sixties was a natural mode for effecting change. The seventies is the period during which the intellectual and the emotional are being amalgamated into purposeful and organized action groups that are collectively referred to as the "movement." This natural combination of intellect and emotion is likely to produce a lasting impression on our way of life. And, as has been true of previous American movements (muckraking, women's suffrage, etc.), as success increases, the movement decreases.

Movements, like the people in them, sometimes become too tired to go on. Allen Ginsberg signalled the exhaustion of the "Beats" in an April 1973 issue of Esquire when he told Gerald Clarke:

> Up until a few weeks ago there was always the lingering desire to be loved. But it's a burden, the desire to be loved. I felt much lighter when I gave it up. It's like saying: "I don't need to be taken to the

to the bathroom anymore."[14]

But the search goes on, it is recorded and distributed by pocket-groups all over the country using old mimmeographs, cast-off dittos, a hard-earned offset. Should libraries continue to regard the product of the search as "ephemeral"?

NOTES

1. Noel Peattie, "Grist to his Miller," Sipapu, 4, No. 1 (1973), p. 2.

2. Jacob Brackman, "The Underground Press," Playboy, August, 1967, p. 96.

3. Norman Horrocks, "A Glance at the Underground Press," PLA Bulletin, July, 1970, p. 225.

4. "Jack Kerouac," Contemporary Authors, 1969, 5-8, p. 637.

5. Allen Ginsberg, "Howl," Howl and Other Poems, Pocket Poets Series, No. 4 (San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1956), pp. 9-22.

6. Ibid.

7. Robert H. Muller, Theodore Jurgen Spahn and Janet M. Spahn, From Radical Left to Extreme Right (2d ed. rev. and enl.; Ann Arbor: Campus Publishers, 1970), I, p. 164.

8. Laurence Leamer, The Paper Revolutionaries, (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1972), p. 24.

9. Paul Johnson, "The Inside Story of the Yellow Submarine," in The Underground Reader, assembled by Mel Howard and Thomas King Forçade (New York: New American Library, 1972), p. 7.

10. Robert J. Glessing, The Underground Press in America, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1970), p. 85.

11. Richard Akeroyd, Alternatives, Wilbur Cross Library Booklist, No. 3 (Storrs: University of Connecticut, 1972), pp. 22-31.

12. Michael Lydon, "The Word Gets Out," Esquire, September, 1967, p. 168.

13. Brackman, "The Underground Press," p. 157.

14. Gerald Clarke, "Checking in with Allen Ginsberg," Esquire, April, 1973, p. 168.

SUNY AT BUFFALO, ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH CENTER

OBJECTIVES

1. To establish the position of selector in the area of alternative press materials.

2. To allocate physical space within the University Libraries for the establishment of the Alternative Research Center.

3. To build a research collection of past and current alternative materials.

4. To create liaisons with the local community groups involved in alternative experiments and collect material documenting the undertakings of these various groups.

5. To make such a collection available for advanced research to the university community by providing extensive bibliographic aids.

6. To add to the knowledge of the national library community by making bibliographic projects, research investigation and other projects known through articles in professional journals.

7. To insure that a broad range of what may presently be considered ephemeral material will be preserved for the use of present and future researchers.

RATIONALE

In the book, From Radical Left to Extreme Right, Robert H. Muller expresses the need for librarians to collect alternative publications:

> The "Library Bill of Rights" committed librarians to a policy of providing materials that present all points of view on the problems and issues of our times. When librarians supply materials on controversial issues, it is not enough to provide scholarly and balanced summaries of the controversies, or articles on the historical background. Libraries should also make available the primary sources, including the periodicals which advocate the points of view summarized in more "respectable" sources.

SUNY at Buffalo is fortunate in having an outstanding collection of twentieth century poetry and is thus able to provide original source materials for "Beat" poetry, the first phase of the underground publications evolution described in this paper. Unfortunately, much of the primary material that has been published by the alternative presses since 1964 has not been acquired by SUNYAB. Since the material was neither poetry nor bibliographically controlled in the normal manner, it has not been purchased automatically nor has it been selected by the bibliographers.

Due to the special knowledge of alternative presses that must be attained in order to effectively tap the intellectual output of this segment of society, it is desirable

that the University Libraries designate a selector whose specialty would be the alternative media.

BUDGET OUTLINE, Serial Publications

Of the 119 serials indexed in Alternative Press Index, the libraries subscribe to only fourteen. The Bell & Howell Company has prepared a 35mm microfilmed collection of some 600 alternative/underground publications that have appeared during the period from 1963 to the present. Included are more than 100 of the titles indexed in API. The articles in these various papers are frequently cited in studies of the underground/alternative press movement. The Bell & Howell collection is not presently indexed although the S.R.R.T. Indexing Committee (American Library Association) is preparing indexing for the basic collection.

Roger L. Lehman, sales representative for Bell & Howell, has informed me that only Cornell University has a complete collection of these microfilms in upstate New York and that partial collections are located at Buffalo & Erie Couty Public and SUNYC Fredonia libraries. The cost of the Bell & Howell set is as follows:

Backfile collection (1965-69)	$ 780.00
Supplement (1963-69)	450.00
1970	150.00
Supplement (1970)	550.00
1971 (Current and backfile)	425.00
TOTAL	2355.00*

* To be specially funded.

In addition, an unspecified amount should be allocated for hardcopy subscriptions (not to exceed $700 per year to be deducted from the proposed annual budget of $2000).

BUDGET OUTLINE, Monographs

Several bibliographic tools have started publication to handle the alternative presses. Alternatives in Print, one example of the new bibliographic tools, provides citations for more than 3000 titles. Although much of the material would not be essential to a research library, the combined price of all items was computed in order to establish an approximate value of alternative, monographic material in print. The total cost was slightly less than $10,000. A review of this and other guides indicates that a budget of $2000 per year would provide the University Libraries with a solid research collection.

CONCLUSION

In addition to the acquisitions that can be made with a budget similar to that described, SUNY at Buffalo has been accepted into a cooperative network of eighteen universities that support collections of alternative materials. Members of the network freely exchange duplicate materials and provide one another with information on new sources of publications. This network is further described in Appendix II.

Appendix III, Letters from Alternative Groups, has been included to give a cross-section of responses received from a variety of groups involved in alternative enterprises. That section, coupled with the history of the alternative movement at the opening of this paper, should provide ample justification for the funding (partial or complete) of an Alternative Research Center.

In order to provide a clear idea of what an alternative collection would attempt to do, 210 organizations were contacted and asked to donate pamphlets, brochures, and samples of their serial publications (see above paragraph and Appendix III for additional details). As material was received, it was given special cataloging, placed in wrappers, and is available in the Reference office. Interested parties are invited to examine it in order to help visualize what a large-scale Alternative Research Center could do for the University.

APPENDIX I - Preliminary Investigative Material

1. Letter (12-8-72) from Bell & Howell regarding Underground Newspaper Collection on microfilm.

2. Letter (1-17-73) from Roger Palmer to Richard Akeroyd requesting meeting, Akeroyd telephone response (1-22-73).

3. Letter (1-30-73) from Roger Palmer to Assistant Director for Public Services requesting funding for trip to University of Connecticut.

4. Memo (2-12-73) from Director of Libraries to Roger Palmer regarding Connecticut trip and Alternative Project.

5. Interview questions posed to Richard Akeroyd at the University of Connecticut (2-15-73) and his responses.

MICRO PHOTO DIVISION

Old Mansfield Rd., Wooster, Ohio 44691 (216) 264-6666 TELEX: 98-6496

BELL & HOWELL

December 8, 1972

Mr. Roger C. Palmer
Assistant Reference Libn
State Univ of New York
Lockwood Memorial Library
Buffalo, N Y 14214

Dear Mr. Palmer:

Thank you for your letter of inquiry dated November 28 in reference to our Underground Press Collection on 35mm microfilm. Rather than going into a great deal of detail in this letter, I am enclosing our Underground Press brochure that gives you prices and number of reels contained in each of the previous Underground Press Collections.

I am also enclosing a letter just sent to all current subscribers to the Underground Press Collection giving pertinent information on the new 1971 collection. However, instead of enclosing a table of contents listing to this 1971 collection, I am enclosing an alphabetical listing of the complete titles involved in the Underground Press Collection since its inception. This gives you a better idea of what titles have been filmed, the roll upon which it appears, and the year that has been filmed.

The Collection may be purchased in any of the separate collections at the price shown. I am sure various departments would be interested in having it available at your library. With the increasing scarcity of the paper copies, this collection on microfilm becomes more valuable to such departments as political science, social science, and history.

If you should require any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Roger L. Lehman

Roger L. Lehman
Sales Representative

Enclosures

RLL/msj

State University of New York at Buffalo

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT LOCKWOOD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

January 17, 1973

Richard Akeroyd
Special Collections Librarian
The University Libraries
University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut 06268

Dear Mr. Akeroyd:

I am in the process of preparing a report for the Director of SUNYAB Libraries outlining the feasibility of creating a collection of alternative materials. Your "mini-column" in the January WLB prompts me to request a meeting with you in either February or March. I would like to see the collection, talk with you about future planning, and discuss the problems of gathering and making available alternative materials.

It will be possible for me to schedule this trip at your convenience. Should this be a difficult time for you to meet with me, perhaps we could arrange a time in the spring.

Sincerely,

ROGER C. PALMER
Assistant Librarian
Reference

RCP/p

Telephone Call:
Richard Akeroyd to Roger Palmer, January 22, 1973. 11:10 a.m. Received letter and suggested meeting in February. Thursday, February 15 agreeable to both parties.

State University of New York at Buffalo

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT LOCKWOOD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

January 30, 1973

Mary B. Cassata, Ph. D.
Assistant Director for Public Services
University Libraries
State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York 14214

Dear Dr. Cassata:

Richard Akeroyd, Director of Alternative Press Collections at the University of Connecticut Libraries, has invited me to examine the Connecticut collections and discuss the problems attendant in establishing an alternative press collection. February 15 was established as a convenient time to meet.

As noted in the preliminary draft of the Alternative Press Project for SUNYAB Libraries, the second objective is "to build a research collection of past and current alternative materials." While the draft edition adequately shows the rationale for this project, more information on implementation, costs, cataloging, and housing requirements is needed. This trip will provide that information.

Two considerations make this project, and therefore this trip, essential. First, there is no research library in Western New York that has even a marginal collection of alternative materials available for academic investigation. Second, the availability of alternative materials for purchase is limited making early consideration of the proposal advantageous.

In view of the situation outlined, I am certain that this trip is necessary and in the best interests of SUNYAB.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Palmer

ROGER C. PALMER
Assistant Librarian
Reference

State University of New York at Buffalo

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

February 12, 1973

MEMO TO: Roger C. Palmer
Reference Department, Lockwood Library

FROM: Eldred R. Smith
Director of Libraries

SUBJECT: Proposed Alternative Press Project for the University Libraries

I have read with great interest your letter of January 30 to Dr. Cassata, regarding a Proposed Alternative Press Project for the University Libraries. I am very pleased with your interest in this area, which I certainly believe deserves exploration on our part. Consequently, I am quite happy to support your request for travel funds to visit the University of Connecticut Libraries on February 15, in order to explore their program.

At the same time, I believe that we should review this matter very carefully before we commit ourselves to a substantial program. We must, of course, see how it relates to other library programs and priorities within the limits of available funding. However, I believe that it is certainly worth exploration, and that the knowledge that you gain from your visit to Connecticut should help us to make the proper decision.

6.05.3/12-2-73

ERS/nk

cc: Mrs. Mary Brady
Dr. Mary Cassata
Mrs. Madeleine Stern
Mrs. Erica Federman

LOCKWOOD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14214 TEL.(716)831-2428

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS POSED TO RICHARD AKEROYD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT - FEBRUARY 15, 1973

1. When was the alternative collection established?
In 1970 the collection was formally started but various librarians began to collect material from 1968 on at demonstrations on the campus. That material became the basis for the Alternative Collection.

2. How was approval for the collection secured?
The Collection evolved naturally. Informal approval was granted in 1970 after departmental discussion. Since then we have been submitting annual reports on the Collection.

3. What is your annual budget?
We spend about $600.00 per year on subscriptions, there are unlimited funds available for pamphlet material, monographs, and back issues of serials. Approval for large purchases has been sought, no funds have been denied. We were offered the library of the Radical Education Project for $500.00 and purchased it. We also depend on the Benedict network and we receive large donations (of materials) from faculty and students.

4. How many employees work with the Collection?
I am employed half-time as a professional, we have one student assistant available quarter-time each week. That is all.

5. Who is responsible for selection?
I have sole responsibility but take outside requests under advisement.

6. What is the scope of the Collection?
We collect alternative material from the United States and Canada and have representative material from Europe, New Zealand, and Australia. We are currently broadening the collection to include right wing and libertarian material.

7. What is the use of the Collection by the university community?
It is used for research rather than current information. It is presently supporting two doctoral dissertations, some work at the masters level, and is used by undergraduates for special projects. Several faculty have made arrangements to assign research involving the Collection.

APPENDIX II -- The Benedict Alternative Collections Network

1. A listing of members of the Benedict network.

2. Research use of alternative collections, a survey.

3. Letter from R.G. Benedict describing use of the alternative collections at the University of Nevada, March 23, 1973.

4. Letter from Ned Kehde, University of Kansas, March 1, 1973.

5. Letter from R. Russell Maylone, Northwestern University, March 7, 1973.

THE R.G. BENEDICT LIBRARY NETWORK OF ALTERNATIVE COLLECTIONS

An association of nineteen libraries stretching from California to Connecticut composes a network of alternative collections. Conceived and operated by Russell Benedict of the Special Collections Department at the University of Nevada, Reno; this cooperative system has helped build the collections of its members quickly and inexpensively. Members periodically ship duplicate materials to Mr. Benedict. The materials are sorted and redistributed throughout the network. The only expense is postage, Mr. Benedict is compensated by having first choice of materials mailed to him. SUNYAB has been accepted into the network as a result of a suggestion by Richard Akeroyd of the University of Connecticut to Mr. Benedict. A list of members is included below:

ARIZONA
Northern Arizona University (Special Collections)

CALIFORNIA
California State University, Fullerton (Freedom Center)
San Francisco State University (Education Library)
Stanford University (Hoover Institution)
University of California, Berkeley (Bancroft Library)
University of California, Davis (Special Collections)

CONNECTICUT
University of Connecticut (Special Collections)

ILLINOIS
Northwestern University (Special Collections)

IOWA
University of Iowa (Special Collections)

KANSAS
University of Kansas (Spencer Research Library)

LOUISIANA
Tulane University (Special Collections)

MISSOURI
Washington University Libraries (Dissent Collection)

NEVADA
North Las Vegas Library (Public Library)
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (Reference Department)
University of Nevada, Reno

NEW YORK
New York University (Tamiment Library)
S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo (Reference Department, Lockwood)

PENNSYLVANIA
Temple University (Bibliography Department)

VIRGINIA
University of Virginia (Alderman Library, Circulation)

RESEARCH USE OF ALTERNATIVE COLLECTIONS

Members of the Benedict network were invited to provide information on the use of their collections for doctoral level research. The responses indicate that almost all of the eighteen collections have been recently established (since 1970) and that, as a result of the youth of the collections and research in this area, not much use has been made of the collections for advanced research. They indicate that the trend is changing.

Of the thirteen reporting libraries (of a possible eighteen), four indicated that their collections had been used by doctoral students. The University of Connecticut Alternative Collection is currently being used by a doctoral candidate in sociology to research the G.I. movement and a political science candidate is using the collection to support a dissertation on the student movement of the 1960's.

New York University reports six candidates for the Ph.D. have used their collections. Candidates were from the history, political science and sociology departments. Tulane also reported one political science major as having used their collection for doctoral research.

On the following pages are three letters that delineate the value of an alternative collection.

R. G. BENEDICT
Special Collections Dept.
Univ. of Nevada Library
Reno, Nevada 89507

March 23, 1973

Mr. Roger C. Palmer
SUNY at Buffalo

Dear Colleague:

I cannot be precise about use of my research facility by doctoral candidates. There have been many over the past 8 years.

Only one, in History, is presently at work. His topic is unrest in the Armed Forces, on which I have much original material. He expects to work through the summer session, intensively.

Among the many graduates using this facility, not all are known to me as working for doctoral or master's theses. No records are kept which might inform on that point. Approximately 12 have informed me of research for doctoral dissertations, and some greater number, of master's-thesis work.

The disciplines represented have included History, English, Journalism, Business Administration, Sociology, Anthropology, Social Psychology, Philosophy, Psychology, and many in Political Science. (I refer here to graduate work). There has been work in economic fields; and in various others.

I send copy of the Library's listing of my collection - which mentions but a few of the topics covered. There are over 5,000 indexed titles, including some 1,000 topics.

About half of the material here is not 12
radical, but apparently-reliable reference material
on various topics. In the radical portions, all
available shades of opinion are represented.

— In the event that you are unable to attend the
ALA Conference - late in June, at Las Vegas, Nev.,
I hope that you'll be at our open meeting for
collectors, and a caucus for network members.

Dick, who is battling space-limitations in the
upcoming WLB article, can work out representation
therein of your work.

As soon as you can, will you write to me
on your prospects there, for use in TS? You'll
understand that the way in which the "partner"
idea works in practice, is something which all
members would like to know.

As to alternative collections outside the
network, I'll send what information I can
find.

Please pardon the tardiness of this letter
With best wishes for your success, I am

Sincerely yours
Russell J Benedict

PS - Enclosed, circular from Editor Celeste West
of "Synergy" magazine, no doubt involving
political censorship. Please help if you can —
R—

University Archives 913 UN 4-4188
KENNETH SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044

2/27/73

Dear Mr. Palmer,

The best collection is housed at Wisconsin State Historical Society; they have the Students for a Democratic Society, National Office records and publications--plus thousands student movement and civil rights materials. University of California, Los Angeles has, I hear only, a respectable collection . The Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research has a collection that is similar to the NYU collection.

I am sorry that I do not have any copies of the MLA article, but it is no great loss--for the article was of little value.

We do not have a guide, but 90 o/o of the left-wing collection has been cataloged and reported to NUC or the National Union Catalog of Manuscripts. I am in the process of completing a national union catalog of left-wing pamphlets published in the U.S., England and Canada between 1955-1970; I will be in California for a week or so in the middle of March and I hope to catalog the holdings of Berkeley and the Hoover Institute at that time.

We have no PhD candidates using the collection; the right-wing collection has ~~proved~~ materials for two masters theses. The collection of underground presses on microfilm from Bell & Howell has been used by PhD candidates. However, the undergraduate and graduate term papers ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ provide the largest source of research demands. Homosexuality and women's rights are the two biggest subjects; abortion is close third. PhD candidates in Speech use the Bell & Howell collection to study the rhetoric of the new left.

Comments on the establishment of an alternative collection: a collection on right-wing materials is sorely needed, and since the left is going into a period of dormancy, I would suggest considering the development of a right-wing and liberitarian collection.

Sincerely,

Ned Kehde

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY
MAR 1 1973
REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

Northwestern
University Library
Evanston,
Illinois 60201

The Special Collections Department

February 26, 1973

Mr. Roger C. Palmer
Lockwood Library - Reference
SUNY at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York 14214

Dear Mr. Palmer,

I thought I would answer your letter of inquiry in the absence of Roxanna Siefer who has created our collection of alternative materials.

To begin, we have had no doctoral candidates pursuing their dissertations in our collections of alternative materials. We do have many students, both from Northwestern and other universities, using the collections, but none in advanced degree programs. Because of some of our holdings we have had many faculty using our collections of women's liberation materials for creating course offerings or guides to packets for class use and the like.

One of the largest facets of our alternative collections is our underground newspapers and it gets very heavy use. Some of its use has been very much part of graduate class work, but not all and there's been a great deal of recreational reading, as well.

I'm not sure the subject of comics is appropriate here but we have a growing collection of them (2,500) and a great deal of traffic, of which 95% is recreational. However, that's changing and we hope to see more class use in this area as well.

Enclosed please find guides to some of our collections. The Acquisition Policy is our most comprehensive guide and will provide the most information about our collections.

You may hear more about our collections upon the return of Ms. Siefer. Should you wish further information, please let us know.

Cordially,

Russell Maylone

R. Russell Maylone
Curator

RM/bjs

APPENDIX III -- Letters from Alternative Groups
(A Representative Sample)

1. Form letter mailed by Roger Palmer to 210 groups listed in Work Force, March 10, 1973.

2. Letter received from Chicago Peace Council, March 21, 1973. (PEACE)

3. Letter received from Institute for the Study of Non-violence, March 23, 1973. (POLITICS)

4. Letter received from CCERL, March 27, 1973. (LAW)

5. Letter received from Connections, March 23, 1973. (PRISONS)

6. Letter received from The Gay Community Services Center, March 23, 1973. (GAY LIBERATION)

7. Letter received from Project Women in Leadership, March 26, 1973. (WOMEN'S LIBERATION)

8. Letter received from Computer People for Peace, March 28, 1973. (PROFESSIONAL ALTERNATIVES)

9. Letter received from MERIP, March 22, 1973. (RESEARCH)

State University of New York at Buffalo

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT LOCKWOOD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Dear Friends,

Please send me information concerning your group. I can use brochures, literature lists, handbills, sample newsletters and magazines, etc.

We are putting together an Alternative Research Center and are concerned with alternatives in general and all forms of Movement activity. Information concerning your group, as well as copies of your publications, will be invaluable to its continued development.

Also, please send subscription information, and prices, for anything you publish on a regular basis. Could you also add us to your mailing list?

Peace,

Roger C. Palmer
Reference Department

send material to:
Roger C. Palmer
Reference - Lockwood Library
S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York 14214

[This is a sample of the form letter sent to 210 groups listed in the January-February issue of Work Force. Some of the replies to this letter are printed on the following pages.]

MAR
#1

Member organizations

Catholic Peace Fellowship

Clergy and Laymen Concerned

Chicago Council of Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Clubs

Communist Party of Illinois

Evanston Peace Center

Friendship Club

Hyde Park SANE

Jewish Cultural Clubs

Mattachine Midwest

Medical Committee for Human Rights

Nonviolent Training and Action Center

North Shore Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Teacher's Committee for Peace in Indochina

3rd Unitarian Church Peace Committee

Trade Unionists for Peace

Veterans for Peace

West Suburban Clergy and Laymen Concerned

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Women's Peace and Unity Club

Young Workers Liberation League

(partial list)

CHICAGO PEACE COUNCIL

542 S. DEARBORN, 5th FLOOR

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605

922-6578

Roger C. Palmer
Reference - Lockwood Library
S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York, 14214

March 19, 1973

Dear Mr. Palmer,

I have enclosed a brochure of just what the Peace Council is, is up to, etc. We hope to have a revised brochure in the next few months.

We had a monthly newsletter, PAX MAGAZINE, which is not in print any longer. WE are giving serious thought to reviving the newsletter. If this comes to pass, I'll mail out to you the information on subscriptions, etc.

Sincerely,

Alan Amato

Alan Amato
Chicago Peace Council

(PEACE)

MAR 2 8 1973

institute for the study of nonviolence
box 1001, palo alto, california 94302
415-321-8382

Allo

The Institute is involved with study groups, weekend sessions, printing literature, with a library which focuses mainly on the history of the nonviolent peace movement, including Gandhi, Black and Mexican american consciousness and on nation-state violence. Most of the 20 or so people live on a land trust of 5 houses and a peoples bank has been active in the past.

Would like to hear more about your alternatives Research Center, especially if there are any listings of groups or activities which could be used in our library

take care
Marian

we're asking $5 for a subscription to the journal. A literature list is on page 26 of the journal and a list of recent sessions on page 18. Hope to hear from you. The literature is being sent 3rd class

(POLITICS)

#1 MAR 2 3 1973

C C E R L
1616 Longfellow Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20011

March 27, 1973

Roger C. Palmer
Reference Department
Lockwood Memorial Library,
State University of New York at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York, 14214

Dear Roger :

Thank you for your letter seeking information about us: we enclose a leaflet that we distributed at Nixon's Inauguration which tells you who we are, and what we do.

Limited by both funds and staff, our publications are all issue-oriented, and of use to the group receiving them: we just dont have the resources to send out additional copies. Again, we send out a regular newsletter, but it is for people working in our areas of concern and its more general distribution would be of no value to us, and little to posterity.

Finally as a group we find your "salutation" offensive, "Peace" - living in upstate New York as you do, with the Attica Concentration Camp on your doorstep how can you talk about "Peace". Peace for whom, Roger ...for Rockefeller and the other murderers ...

Get your shit together and dont bother us with nonsense .

Venceremos !

Sheila O'Connor

CCERL = Coordinating Center for Education in Repression and the Law

(LAW)

CONNECTIONS
3189 16th St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94103
(415) 863-1864

23 march 1973

Roger C. Palmer
Reference-Lockwood Library
.S.U.N.Y. AT buffallo
Buffalo, N.Y. 14214

My apologies fro the delay in answering this letter. There is so much work to do and so few of us to do it, and, in addition, only 24 hours in every day.

Let me give you a rundown on what Connections does, and I will also include literaure, some of which we write and publish, and some of which we distribute for other related groups.

Connections is an organization made up of families of prisoners, ex-cons and other aware community people. OUr staff is about 5 people; our mailing list is 3,000. We exist on donations from individuals and I think one private foundation. We do not want to take government money, even if we coula get it, which is doubtful. WE do not want to accept any money--it would be hypocritical-- from the very people that locked our comrades up, and we want to be free to agitate for what we believe in--the invalidity of capitalism and the american society. Government money comes with many strings attached and we would not be freee if we accepted it.

Our most time and money consuming project is to provide free transportation to all prisons in the state of california, both state and federal joints. Most people in prison are poor people and their families are poor and have no way to get to see them. In addition, the department of corrections on purpose puts people in joints far away rom their homes--less visits equals less interference into their privat e kingdom.

WE publish a newlsletter every 6 weeks or so. I have put you on the mailing list.

WE sponsor the women's prison project which tries to go into the women's jails and priosns to give classes and rap sessions and medical advice.

We publish our own, and distribut others', literature.

We speak before gruups in the community and anyone who will listen, to tell them what is really happening in this socieyt.

We attend meetings of the Adult Authority in Sacramento to publicize what they would prefer to be kept secret, and we protest their dictatorial acthions.

We sponsor conferences and coalitions.
WE provide all information on prison regulations, maps to get there, the workings of the parole board, referrals fro housing, jobs, etc.

WE correspond with indide groups.

We try and find people to write to prisoners.

We send prisoners shoes, or envelopes or books

we try and provide housing for people who must go a long way to; visit people inside.

Hope this helps you.

Michelle for Connections

Michele

#1 MAR 2 3 19?3

THE GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER
1614 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90017
Phone: (213) 482-3062

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March 20, 1973

Roger C. Palmer
Reference - Lockwood Library
S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo
Buffalo, New York 14214

Dear Roger:

I am enclosing some of the materials that we have presently in use at our agency -- we change from time to time, and are in the process of publishing others, particularly works on counselling of gay people, and working with gay people by and for gay people, which is where we think it is at, that is to say that gay people are better qualified to work with and for other gay people rather than the "colonizing non gay experts".

We will place you on our mailing list and any material that is sent out in the future will be sent to you.

Sincerely,

Ken Bartley
Administrative Director

CC: File

(GAY LIBERATION)

#1 MAR 2 6 19

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WITHERSPOON BUILDING, 1323 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107
Telephone 215/735-6722

James R. Gailey, General Secretary
H. Clayton Neel, Assistant General Secretary
Oscar J. Hussel, Assistant General Secretary

March 20, 1973

Roger C. Palmer
Reference - Lockwood Library
S.U.N.Y. at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY 14214

Dear Mr. Palmer:

Thank you for your recent inquiry about WIL.

Project WIL is an action-oriented, locally initiated project in which women bring themselves together to focus on a particular concern or need of their community. In the process, the women locally involved develop an awareness of their identity and an understanding of their ability to learn and move together in a shared, supportive relationship. The local projects are enabled through financial grants and other resource services of the WIL program and national staff, co-directed by Gail Hinand and Mary Kenyatta. For this three year project, funded through women's Thank Offering giving to the Board of Christian Education, Project WIL hopes to develop these local experiences into models for the total church.

I'm enclosing some additional information to help explain WIL, including write-ups on some of our current projects and a recent press release.

If you have further interest or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Gail D. Hinand

Gail D. Hinand
Co-director, Project WIL

ENCLOSURES

(WOMEN'S LIBERATION)

H MAR 2 [illegible] 1973

CPP

Computer People for Peace
291 Sterling Place Brooklyn, N.Y. 11238

Dear Friend,

We received your inquiry about CPP. Thank you for your interest.

CPP was organized five years ago around the issue of the war in Vietnam. Since then we have widened our focus to include the war at home, with a specific point of attack on the misuse of technology.

We are almost entirely workers within the computer field: programmers, analysts, key punch operators, computer operators, engineers, and scientists. Most of us work for banks, insurance companies, universities, IBM, government, etc., and we devote much of our energy to tackling the corporation from within.

We take part in most peace activities in our areas, concentrating on reaching our co-workers and educating the public about the role of technology in the war. We confront the industry establishment at their annual conventions. We publish Interrupt and have written several booklets on the misuse of technology. We hold our own alternate conferences each year of workers in the field. Currently we are involved in a research and action project around IBM, and in establishing CPP collectives in several cities throughout the country.

Our publication, Interrupt, continues to reach an ever-growing number of co-workers with new ideas. Enclosed is the latest issue, which should give you a better idea of what we're into.

Membership dues are $10 per year, and we depend on dues to cover 75% of our expenses. More members, broader support, and sufficient funds will guarantee increased political effectiveness for CPP.

We hope that you'll join us.

Peace,

Paul

Paul Millstein
for CPP

P.S. 3 pamphlets are available for $1— (free for member/sub to Interrupt). They are Computers & Health, Data Banks and the Military/Industrial Complex

(PROFESSIONAL ALTERNATIVES)

Middle East Research & Information Project

P.O. Box 3122
Washington, D.C. 20010

P.O. Box 48
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Dear Roger:

I am sending under other cover copies of the last two issues of our monthly newsletter on the Middle East. On the inside back cover you will find our most recent literature -- inside #15. The Palestine Information kit that is listed there is no longer available from us. The list is updated monthly, and back issues are dropped when we decide no longer to reprint an occasional. In addition to our literature we also are available for speaking engagements, and at the moment one of the staff is available for speaking on Yemen (cf. #15). Speaking engagements are done for transportation and a small honorarium.

Our collective is made up of a group of people in Boston and Washington. Our perspective is anti-imperialist. We disseminate information on American involvement in the Middle East, the political economy of the area, and class and national struggle in the area. We have all had experience in the Middle East as well as involvement in movement activities in this country. We are politically independent and present our own analysis of the situation in the Middle East.

We have no mailing except for the monthly, which is by subscription. Institutional rate is $10.00 yearly. We also have no brochures on the group.

I hope this information will be of use to you. Let us know what you think of the publication, as we sincerely desire feeback from readers. Also if there is any other information you want or assistance we can give, please let us know. I hope that the Alternative Research Center is successful.

Peace,

John Galvani
MERIP staff collective

(RESEARCH)